



# **Superintendent's Report**

Newark Public Schools  
Advisory Board Meeting

November 27, 2012

***DRAFT***

# **In this Report:**

- **District Priorities**
- **Renew Schools Update**
- **American College Testing (ACT)**
- **Hurricane Relief**

# District Priorities...

This is our **ultimate goal...**

...we will get there  
by dramatically  
**transforming teaching and  
learning...**

...and creating the **enabling  
conditions** for this  
transformation to occur

## Ensure all students graduate college-ready

All students master academic, social, and emotional skills  
to succeed in college

## Develop effective professionals in every classroom

All teachers are professionals who focus on what students learn rather than  
what they are taught

## Cultivate transformational school leaders

Principals maintain laser focus on college readiness  
for all students and have decision-making flexibility  
and accountability to drive results

## Re-imagine NPS as a service-oriented team

Central office exists to  
serve and support schools as the primary unit of  
change

## Provide top tier school options for all students

Every Newark school ensures that  
all students are on track to graduate college-  
ready

## Engage and involve stakeholders to contribute to college readiness

Families and communities recognize and advocate for great teaching and schools; families actively  
partner with schools to ensure their students are on the path to college readiness

# Renew Schools: Update

## 5 Key Ingredients – Work to Date

- **Great School Leader (highlights)**
  - Student Learning Data (ANET)
  - Family and Community Engagement
  - Strategic Planning
- **Excellent Staff (highlights)**
  - Collaboration
  - Using data
- **Social and Emotional Supports**
  - Whole School (PBSIS / Homegrown / Kickboard)
- **21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Environments**
  - Full implementation near complete
  - Access to technology improved in all schools
- **More Time on Task (ELT and Adult Ed)**
  - Public / Private Partnership
  - Budgets and Program Design Final Stage

# Renew Schools: Update

## 5 Key Ingredients – Moving Forward

- **Great School Leader**
  - Series of Professional Development (design phase)
  - Academic Interventions
- **Excellent Staff**
  - Common Core Shifts
  - Rigor and Inclusiveness
- **Social and Emotional Supports**
  - Direct Services (identifying partnerships / models)
- **21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Environments**
  - Safari Montage professional development and implementation
- **More Time on Task (ELT and Adult Ed)**
  - Launch of ELT in all Renew Schools Dec/Jan
  - Contract Provisions

# American College Testing (ACT)

## Why did NPS adopt ACT?

- The ACT is designed to determine and improve student readiness for college
- It is one of two entrance exams accepted by colleges across the country
- The ACT is a national college admissions examination that consists of subject area tests in English, Mathematics, Reading and Science, as well as a 30-minute writing test
- Newark Public Schools began administering a series of assessments designed by ACT in the 2011-2012 school year

# American College Testing (ACT)

## Why did NPS adopt ACT?

- **For Students:** helps students plan ahead by identifying content areas they may need to improve and by helping them choose high school courses that will **prepare them for college**. ACT is accepted by all 4-year colleges and universities.
- **For Parents and Families:** tests what your child is learning and assesses only what your child knows. Many colleges use the ACT to make admissions and scholarship decisions. It is also the college entrance test most preferred nationwide.
- **For Teachers/Counselors:** a valuable **advising tool** that provides focus for more effective parental involvement when reviewing students' academic progress and post-secondary options.
- **For Principals/District Administrators:** helps **identify gaps in the curriculum** and assists with designing **more rigorous courses**; giving tests over 4 years allows all these groups to see progress/growth toward college readiness (not just 1 moment in time like the HSPA)

# American College Testing (ACT)

## What does the ACT test?

### Curriculum-Based Assessments

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#### EXPLORE®

8th and 9th grade  
educational and  
career planning  
program

[act.org/explore](http://act.org/explore)

8<sup>th</sup> grade Explore replaces  
the official admissions test  
for magnet high schools.

#### PLAN®

10th grade  
educational and  
career planning  
program

[act.org/plan](http://act.org/plan)

#### The ACT®

11th or 12th grade  
assessment for  
learning outcomes

[act.org/aap](http://act.org/aap)

11<sup>th</sup> grade ACT will be  
administered free of charge.

English, math, reading, science, *optional* Writing Test (ACT only)  
and Career and Educational Components

**Three assessments, *ONE common scale* tied to ACT's College Readiness Standards.**



# American College Testing (ACT)

## What does the ACT test?

### Explore – English Test

**ENGLISH TEST** (30 minutes)

**25 questions**—Usage/Mechanics

**15 questions**—Rhetorical Skills

**40 questions**

#### **Measures:**

- Understanding of standard written English—punctuation, grammar and usage, and sentence structure (usage/mechanics)
- Understanding of the use of strategy, organization, and style in writing (rhetorical skills)

# American College Testing (ACT)

## What does the ACT test?

### Explore – Math Test

**MATHEMATICS TEST (30 minutes)**

**19 questions—Pre-Algebra/Algebra**

**7 questions—Geometry**

**4 questions—Statistics/Probability**

**30 questions**

#### **Measures:**

- Mathematical reasoning—ability to reason rather than how well formulas are memorized
- Four areas—knowledge and skills, direct application, understanding concepts, and integrating conceptual understanding (in pre-algebra, elementary algebra, geometry, and statistics and probability)

# American College Testing (ACT)

What does the ACT test?

Explore – Reading Test

**READING TEST** (30 minutes)

**30 questions**

**Measures:**

- Reading comprehension from different subject areas
- Skills referring to details in the passage, drawing conclusions, and making comparisons and generalizations

The test includes materials read in school: short stories or novels, humanities, and social sciences.

# American College Testing (ACT)

## What does the ACT test?

### Explore – Science Test

**SCIENCE TEST** (30 minutes)

**28 questions**

#### Measures:

- Scientific reasoning skills
- Sets of scientific information—data representation (graphs, tables, and other forms), research summaries, or conflicting viewpoints
- Understanding of scientific information and ability to draw conclusions

The test includes materials from the life sciences, Earth/space sciences, and physical sciences. It emphasizes scientific reasoning ability rather than recall of scientific facts or skills in mathematics or reading.

# American College Testing (ACT)

How does the ACT support students and families?

- Provides a detailed score report, a career plan, and indicate student needs
- The ACT also provide:
  - Suggestions for improving student academic skills
  - Careers that match student interests
  - Indicators of college readiness

# American College Testing (ACT)

## How does the ACT support students and families?

October 15, 2011 OOF 1234567 PN: 98765432 000001

**PLAN**  
Your Score Report

SCHOOL NAME: EXAMPLE HIGH SCHOOL SCHOOL CODE: 000000 TEST FORM: 00A TEST DATE: OCTOBER 3, 2011

TAYLOR, ANN C  
123 MAIN ST  
ANYTOWN, USA 00000  
ID#: 123456  
GRADE: 10  
SCHOOL CODE: —

**ACT**

**More info at**  
[www.planstudent.org](http://www.planstudent.org)

**Your Estimated ACT Composite Score Range**  
19-23

Use this score range to help plan for college.

**Your Educational Plans for After High School**  
Graduate/Professional Studies

**Admission Standards**  
Colleges differ in their admission standards. For example, most students in "selective" colleges have ACT Composite scores in the range of 21 to 26. Some admitted students may have scores outside the range.

**Admission Standard** **Typical Scores**

Open	16-21
Traditional	18-24
Selective	21-26
Highly Selective	25-30

**Profile for Success**  
Your Career Area Preference  
No Response

There's no profile based on your response. Successful college sophomores typically have ACT Composite scores of 22-26.

See Using Your PLAN Results.

**Score Range** **Percent of students scoring at or below your score**

Score Range	In the U.S. (17-20)	In Your School	In Your State
<b>Composite Score 18</b>	64%	66%	67%
<b>English 18</b>	65%	67%	81%
Usage/Mechanics (1-16)	77%		81%
Rhetorical Skills (1-16)	9	64%	64%
<b>Mathematics 19</b>	73%	75%	91%
Pre-Alg./Algebra (1-16)	13	90%	56%
Geometry (1-16)	8	53%	46%
<b>Reading 15</b>	41%	46%	82%
<b>Science 20</b>	78%		

**College Readiness**  
Students scoring at or above these benchmark scores, and taking college prep courses throughout high school, will likely be ready for first-year college courses. How do your scores compare?

**Benchmark Scores (10th Grade)** **Your scores in:**

Benchmark Scores (10th Grade)	Below	At	Above
<b>English 15</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Mathematics 19</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Reading 17</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Science 21</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**About Your Scores.** One or more of your PLAN scores fall below the benchmark scores that show readiness for college-level work. Suggestions for improving your skills are listed on the back of this report. Also, talk to your counselor or teacher about courses that can improve your skills. Check college websites to learn more about their admission requirements.

**Your High School Course Plans Compared to Core**  
Core means minimum number of high school courses recommended to prepare for college.

Course	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
<b>English</b>	Core				
<b>Mathematics</b>	Core				
<b>Social Studies</b>	Core				
<b>Science</b>	Core				

**About Your Course Plans.** Your plans fall short of the recommended courses. (Most successful college students completed all of these recommended courses when they were in high school.) Talk to your counselor or teacher to make sure you are getting the courses you need.

**Your reported needs**

- Making plans for my education, career, and work after high school
- Improving my writing skills
- Improving my reading speed and comprehension
- Improving my study skills
- Improving my mathematical skills
- Improving my computer skills
- Improving my public speaking skills

**Your Career Possibilities**

**STEP 1: You and the World of Work**  
The World-of-Work Map is your key to hundreds of jobs in the work world. The Map shows 26 Career Areas (groups of similar jobs) according to their basic work tasks involving people, things, data, and ideas.

The Map is divided into 12 regions. Each region has a different mix of work tasks. For example, Career Area P (Natural Science & Technologies) mostly involves working with ideas and things.

**STEP 2: Your Interests**  
When you completed PLAN you were asked to:  
• choose a Career Area you would like.  
• complete an interest inventory.

Your results are shown on the World-of-Work Map below.  
• Your Career Area choice was missing.  
• Your interest inventory results suggested that you may enjoy jobs in map regions 5 and 8. See the Career Areas in those regions.

**STEP 3: Exploring Career Options**  
The Career Area List below shows examples of jobs in each of the 26 Career Areas. Review all of the Career Areas, especially any that are shaded.

Circle at least two Career Areas that have jobs you might like best.

Find out more about jobs that are right for you. Use the tips in your booklet, or go to [www.planstudent.org](http://www.planstudent.org).

**World-of-Work Map**

Working with DATA

Working with PEOPLE

Working with IDEAS

Working with THINGS

Working with SKILLS

**Region 99**

**Information for Counselors**  
Scores: RS 17 AS 58 E6 C7  
%ile, indifferent, Choice: 24—55—21

**Career Area List**

**A. Employment-Related Services**  
Human Resources Manager; Recruiter; Interviewer

**B. Marketing & Sales**  
Agents (Insurance, Real Estate, etc.); Retail Salesperson

**C. Management**  
Executive; Office Manager; Hotel/Motel Manager

**D. Regulation & Protection**  
Food Inspector; Police Officer; Detective

**E. Communications & Records**  
Secretary; Court Reporter; Office Clerk

**F. Financial Transactions**  
Accountant; Bank Teller; Budget Analyst

**G. Distribution & Dispatching**  
Warehouse Supervisor; Air Traffic Controller

**H. Transport Operation & Related**  
Truck/Bus/Car Drivers; Ship Captain; Pilot

**I. Agriculture, Forestry & Related**  
Farmer; Nursery Manager; Forester

**J. Computer & Information Specialties**  
Programmer; Systems Analyst; Desktop Programmer; Webmaster

**K. Construction & Maintenance**  
Carpenter; Electrician; Bricklayer

**L. Crafts & Related**  
Cabinetmaker; Tailor; Chef/Cook; Jeweler

**M. Manufacturing & Processing**  
Tool & Die Maker; Machinist; Welder; Dry Cleaner

**N. Mechanical & Electrical Specialties**  
Auto Mechanic; Aircraft Mechanic; Office Machine Repairer

**O. Engineering & Technologies**  
Engineer (Civil, etc.); Technician (Labor, etc.); Architect

**P. Natural Science & Technologies**  
Physicist; Biologist; Chemist; Statistician

**Q. Medical Technologies (also see Area W)**  
Pharmacist; Optician; Dietitian; Technologists (Biological, etc.)

**R. Medical Diagnosis & Treatment (also see Area W)**  
Physician; Pathologist; Dentist; Veterinarian; Nurse; Anesthetist

**S. Social Sciences**  
Sociologist; Political Scientist; Economist; Urban Planner

**T. Applied Arts (Visual)**  
Artist; Illustrator; Photographer; Interior Designer

**U. Creative & Performing Arts**  
Writer; Musician; Singer; Dancer; TV/Movie Director

**V. Applied Arts (Written & Spoken)**  
Reporter; Columnist; Editor; Librarian

**W. Health Care (also see Areas D and R)**  
Physiotherapist; Dental Assistant; Licensed Practical Nurse

**X. Education**  
Administrator; Athletic Coach; Teacher

**Y. Community Services**  
Social Worker; Lawyer; Paralegal; Counselor; Clergy

**Z. Personal Services**  
Waiter/Waitress; Barber; Cosmetologist; Travel Guide

# American College Testing (ACT)

## How does the ACT support students and families?

### College Readiness

Students scoring at or above these benchmark scores, and taking college prep courses throughout high school, will likely be ready for first-year college courses. How do your scores compare?

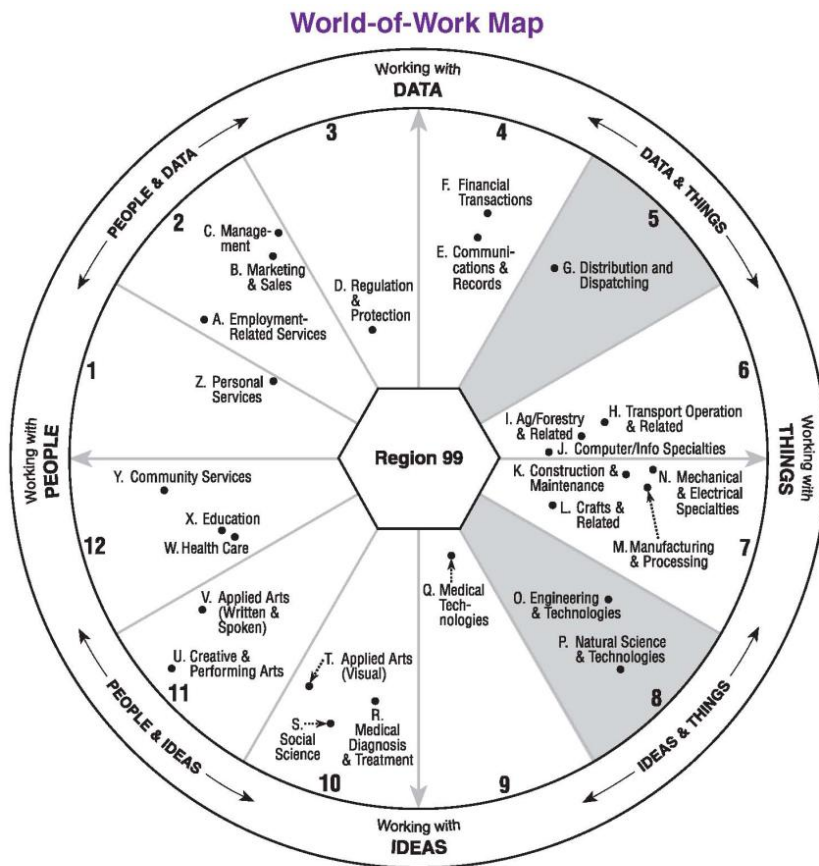
	Benchmark Scores (10th Grade)	Your score is:		
		Below	At	Above
English	15	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mathematics	19	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reading	17	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Science	21	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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# American College Testing (ACT)

How does the ACT support students and families?

## Career Possibilities



**Information for Counselors**

Scores: R5 I7 A5 S6 E6 C7  
%Like, Indifferent, Dislike: 24—55—21

### Career Area List

#### A. Employment-Related Services

Human Resources Manager; Recruiter; Interviewer

#### B. Marketing & Sales

Agents (Insurance, Real Estate, etc.); Retail Salesworker

#### C. Management

Executive; Office Manager; Hotel/Motel Manager

#### D. Regulation & Protection

Food Inspector; Police Officer; Detective

#### E. Communications & Records

Secretary; Court Reporter; Office Clerk

#### F. Financial Transactions

Accountant; Bank Teller; Budget Analyst

#### G. Distribution & Dispatching

Warehouse Supervisor; Air Traffic Controller

#### H. Transport Operation & Related

Truck/Bus/Cab Drivers; Ship Captain; Pilot

#### I. Agriculture, Forestry & Related

Farmer; Nursery Manager; Forester

#### J. Computer & Information Specialties

Programmer; Systems Analyst; Desktop Publisher; Actuary

#### K. Construction & Maintenance

Carpenter; Electrician; Bricklayer

#### L. Crafts & Related

Cabinetmaker; Tailor; Chef/Cook; Jeweler

#### M. Manufacturing & Processing

Tool & Die Maker; Machinist; Welder; Dry Cleaner

#### N. Mechanical & Electrical Specialties

Auto Mechanic; Aircraft Mechanic; Office Machine Repairer

#### O. Engineering & Technologies

Engineers (Civil, etc.); Technicians (Laser, etc.); Architect

#### P. Natural Science & Technologies

Physicist; Biologist; Chemist; Statistician

#### Q. Medical Technologies (also see Area W)

Pharmacist; Optician; Dietitian; Technologists (Surgical, etc.)

#### R. Medical Diagnosis & Treatment (also see Area W)

Physician; Pathologist; Dentist; Veterinarian; Nurse Anesthetist

#### S. Social Science

Sociologist; Political Scientist; Economist; Urban Planner

#### T. Applied Arts (Visual)

Artist; Illustrator; Photographer; Interior Designer

#### U. Creative & Performing Arts

Writer; Musician; Singer; Dancer; TV/Movie Director

#### V. Applied Arts (Written & Spoken)

Reporter; Columnist; Editor; Librarian

#### W. Health Care (also see Areas Q and R)

Recreational Therapist; Dental Assistant; Licensed Practical Nurse

#### X. Education

Administrator; Athletic Coach; Teacher

#### Y. Community Services

Social Worker; Lawyer; Paralegal; Counselor; Clergy

#### Z. Personal Services

Waiter/Waitress; Barber; Cosmetologist; Travel Guide



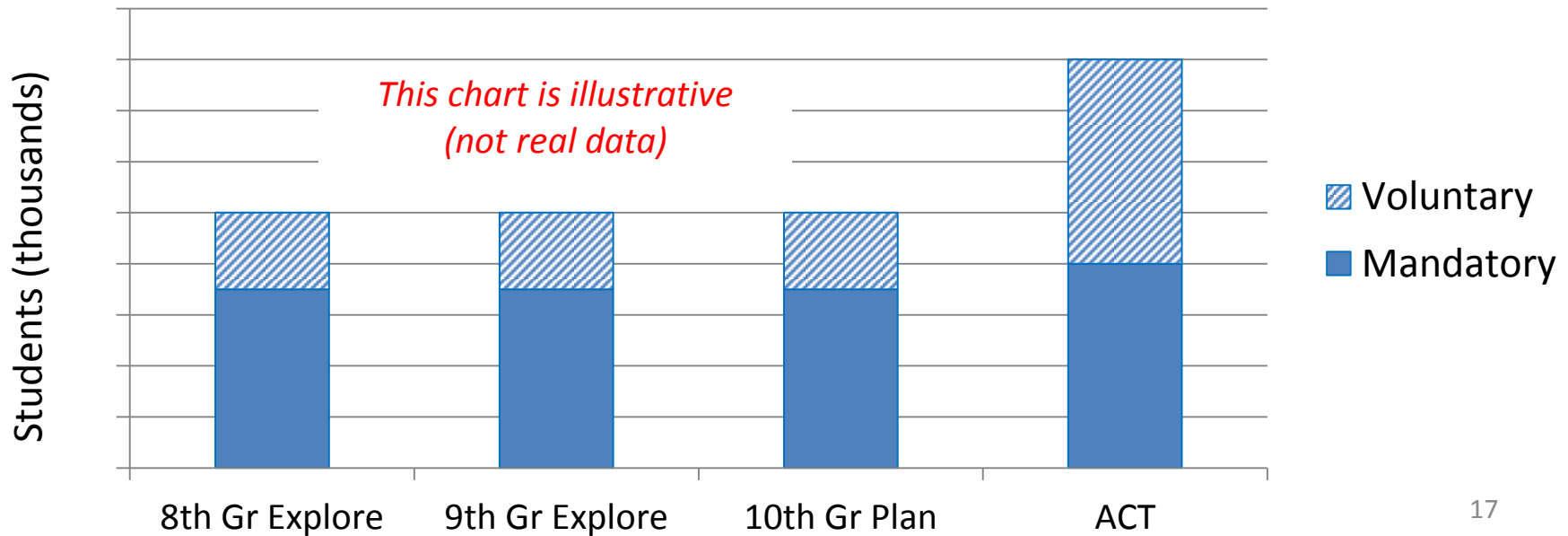
# American College Testing (ACT)

## NPS vs. National Averages

### NPS needs to be cautious when comparing District results with National results

- The National sample does not represent all students in the USA, as this test is not mandatory
- Between 10th grade PLAN and 11th grade ACT there is a sharp increase in voluntary test takers; this group is likely to have higher than average performance
- Voluntary testers are often above average performers, who intend to pursue college
- The change in the make up of the 11<sup>th</sup> grade test takers is responsible for what appears to be a dip in performance for NPS at 11<sup>th</sup> grade, but, more likely, this is **due to the change in who is taking the ACT nationwide**

### EPAS/ACT Test Takers in the USA



# **American College Testing (ACT)**

## **NPS vs. National Averages**

### **Additional Considerations:**

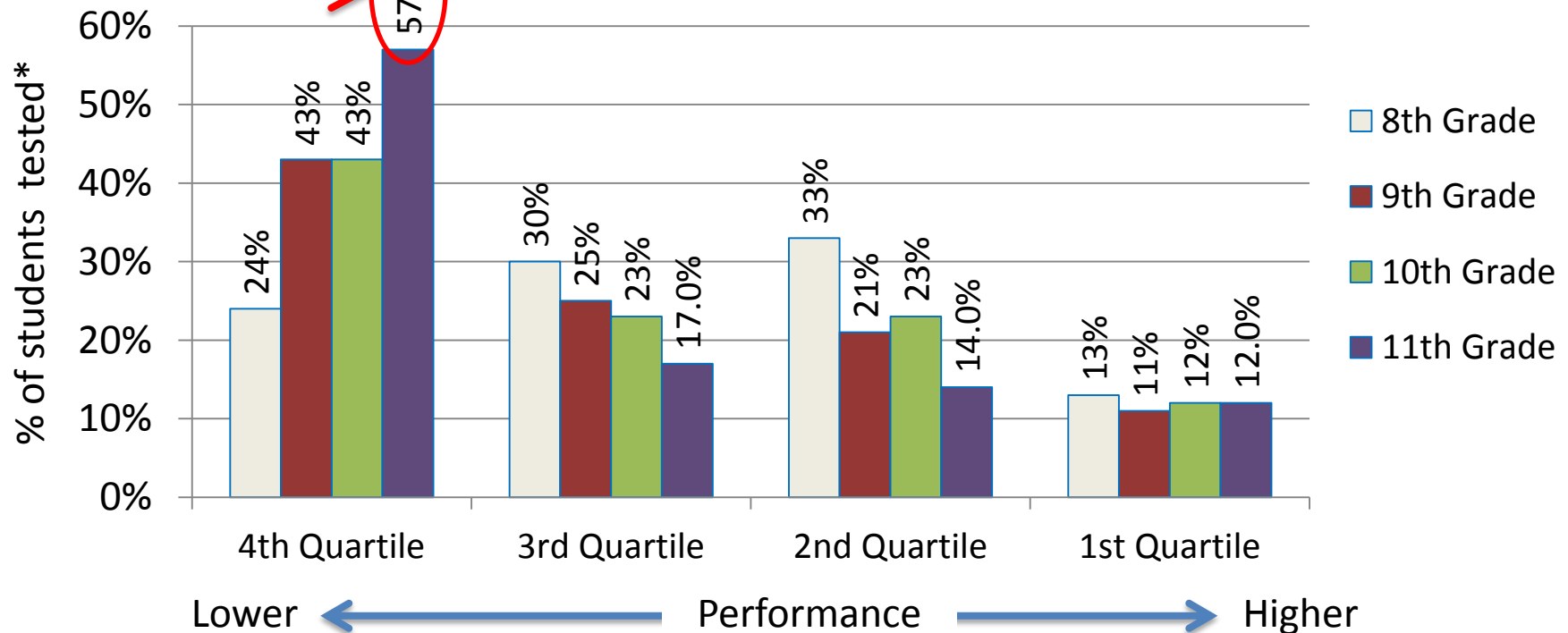
- ACT reports of results do not include any students who are provided “accommodations”
- Generally, accommodations are made for students with IEP’s
- EXPLORE and PLAN participation may or may not be mandatory when the ACT is mandatory

# American College Testing (ACT)

## NPS vs. National Averages

While it is true that the percent of NPS students in the bottom Quartile jumps up at 11<sup>th</sup> grade. This needs to be considered in the context of who is taking the tests.

EPAS Results Across Grade Level in Newark



\* Results for NPS include only students who did not receive “accommodations”

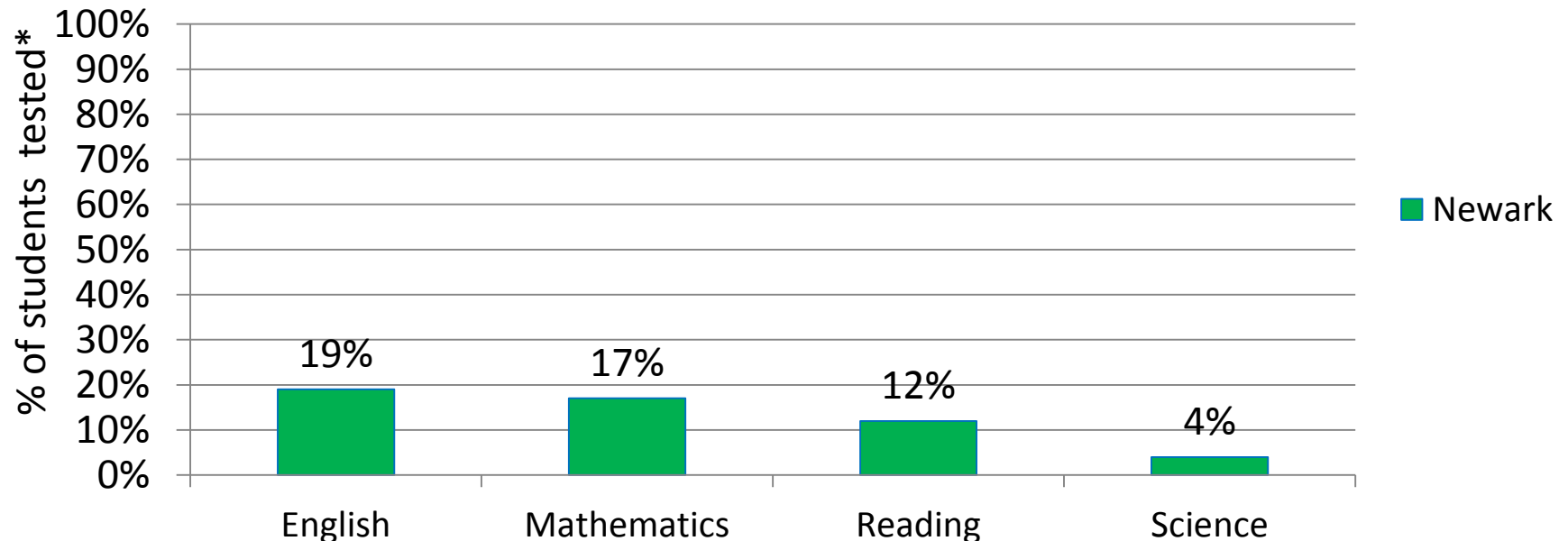
# American College Testing (ACT)

## NPS vs. National Averages

### How Should the Results be Interpreted?

- Since comparison to the National group of test takers is somewhat “apples –to – oranges”, we recommend that you focus on the % of NPS students who score at or above the ACT established benchmarks for College Readiness\*
- For grades 8, 9 and 10 the metric would be “on-track” to be College Ready

### 11<sup>th</sup> Graders who scored at or above the ACT Benchmark for College Readiness, by subject; NPS



\* Results for NPS include only students who did not receive “accommodations”

# American College Testing (ACT)

## Timeline

- District wide **8<sup>th</sup> grade** Explore assessment: **Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012**
- District wide 9<sup>th</sup> grade “Explore” assessment, 10<sup>th</sup> grade “Plan” test, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade ACT exam: **April 2013**

## Steps NPS took last year:

- Web-based resources were set up on the NPS website for students and families
- High school students not participating in the HSPA took ACT practice assessments at most comprehensive high schools during the first week of March
- Principals and staff were provided with extensive information about the structure and content of the assessments via the Principal Leadership Institute (PLI) sessions and a series of test coordinator trainings

## Additional steps NPS will take this year:

- Clear communication on the length of the tests
  - As a 5 hour test the ACT for 11th graders is the longest assessment taken by any NPS student in one sitting
- Importance of the interest survey on pre-test day
  - Per ACT's directive, students who do not take the interest survey are not allowed to take the content based portion of the tests
- Information will be provided to families through the NPS website
- Training will be provided to school-based staff in order to support families

# Hurricane Relief

## Members of the Newark Community

The Newark Public Schools understands that in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy it has been difficult for many families based on the power situation, flooding, displacement, and many other factors. In an effort to expedite aid and resources the district has established a special partnership with two outstanding, non-profit organizations deeply committed to aiding citizens in need.



[www.donorschoose.org/teachers](http://www.donorschoose.org/teachers)

DonorsChoose.org works directly with teachers to help replenish supplies for students both in the classroom and at home.



<https://www.modestneeds.org>

Modest Needs is designed to help those experiencing financial hardship in the wake of the storm.

**Newark Families who do have access to the internet can contact  
The Newark Public Schools Call Center at 973-733-7333 for assistance!**

- END -